SIERRA CLUB

Yodeler

Vol. XV February 2, 1953 Number 3

SPOTLIGHT ON THE NORTHERN COUNTIES

The affairs of northernmost California came under review at the January meeting of the Conservation Committee. Here are some of the most important items discussed:

Bill 69, which was introduced in the State Senate a few days ago, is simple, short, and dangerous. It requires the State Park authorities to grant routes for highways through any State Park on demand of the Highway Commission. Since the sponsors of the bill represent the northwestern counties, this looks like an opening gun in the expected fight to widen the Redwood Highway in Humboldt County at the expense of the roadside groves. The re-routing of this short stretch of highway to save the trees and at the same time appease the truckers has been discussed in the Yodeler recently. You will hear more of Bill 69 when the Legislature reconvenes.

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Lumbering on Mount Shasta has ceased for the moment, at least in the area where it caused apprehension that scenic values were being destroyed. Private land holdings there are so scattered among National Forests that the preservation of any large area untouched is extremely difficult. With money (!) and time, the Forest Service might acquire sufficient land to set up a wilderness area. Meanwhile the private operators have left a nasty tangle of fallen logs along the trail which is unsightly and not in keeping with the dignity of the mountain

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The Trinity River Diversion (cont. p.2)

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Tuesday February 17	The Himalayas and Mount Olympus Everett Junior High School 16th and Church Street s San Francisco, 8 p.m.
Tuesday March 3	W. L. Doty, Editor Sunset Magazine Everett Junior High School 16th and Church Streets San Francisco, 8 p.m.

THREE DAYS FOR SAN BENITO MOUNTAIN

Leave your skis at home and climb the highest mountain in the Inner Coast Range, San Benito Mountain (5258 feet) on Washington's Birthday week end. You'll have a balcony seat to see the Sierra, San Joaquin Valley and great areas of the Coast Ranges. On the mountain are stands of Coulter pine, yellow pine and incense cedar at which to gaze.

This car camping expedition will furnish a fine opportunity to shake out those winter kinks. Meet the leader in front of the State Theater in Hollister at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, February 21. Take the Pinnacles Road and turn to the left at Pacines and drive to New Idria (55 miles from Hollister; 122 miles from Palo Alto). Stay on the main road at New Idria, drive to Aurora Mine, four miles above. Still on the main road, proceed one-half mile up the creek to the campsites. Bring drinking water.

To climb the mountain, drive four miles further from the campsite up the road along east side of the peak. The summit is an easy half-hour hike from this point. (cont. p.2)

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Next Deadline:
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(cont. from p. 1)
scheme, which would take half its water out to Central Valley, is high on the list of Reclamation projects. The dams and reservoirs would be outside the wilderness area, and therefore, would not meet with opposition from conservationists. However, the effect on the salmon and steelhead fisheries may be serious. A call to the State Bureau of Fish Conservation gives us the information that the State is planning to mitigate the loss of an important spawning ground by work on the tributaries of the Trinity, and by requesting the Federal authorities, after the dam is built, to follow careful schedules for extra release of water at spawning times. If this cooperation can be worked out, the Klamath coastal fisheries may lose only a small part of their catch, but otherwise the loss would be serious. The Fish Conservation Bureau points out that there will be an increase in trout in the river above the dam so that loss must always be balanced against gain in judging the whole project.

--CMC

(cont. from p. 1)
This is a remote and wild area of the Coast Range. Rarely visited, it's well worth looking into.

This will be a joint trip with the Loma Prieta Chapter. The Bay Chapter leaders are: Herbert Read, LAndscape 6-3864; and Edith Morgan, PRospect 6-1930.

YODELER hears with regret of the death of Edward Campbell Yeazell, member of the Sierra Club since 1936, and an enthusiastic worker on Clair Tappaan Lodge in its early days.

NATURAL SCIENCE SECTION

Coming Events--Circle these dates on your calendar...

Friday, February 13--Room 360 Mills Tower, 7:45 p.m. Mr. Oliver Bowen, Associate Geologist of the Division of Mines will describe and illustrate "The Evolution of the Landscape of the Bay Area."

This is the first of the talks on local geology we hope to arrange this season, and we suggest some preliminary reading in the Geologic Guidebook to the San Francisco Bay Counties, to which Mr. Bowen contributed, which would make his lecture doubly interesting.

The poet Tennyson covers Mr. Bowen's theme better than we can express it.

"...Here rolls the deep where grew the tree;
And there, where the long street roars, hath been
The stillness of the central sea."

Come and hear why the sea no longer covers Market Street and whether it will some day return...

Sunday, February 15--Field trip in Marin County. Objective: The Lower Forms of Life. Take the 8:15 a.m. bus to Bootjack. Cars be at Bootjack parking ground by 9:25 a.m. Hike about five miles, round trip. Leader, Neva Snell.

WILDLIFE LECTURE

Sierra Club members interested in conservation and wildlife are invited to attend the February 12 meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. Following a short business meeting, Mr. Lowell Sumner, Biologist for Region #4 of the National Park Service, will give an illustrated talk on "The Wildlife of Katmai and Glacier Bay National Monuments". (See his article in the December Sierra Club Bulletin, "Katmai, the Magnoficent from the Air.") --Dorothy Dean Scott
Golden Gate Audubon Soc.

RAQUETTEERS ATTENTION

Snowshoers going to Peter Grubb Hut February 14-15 should make reservations right away. It's $7.00 (Friday night at CTL and six meals) plus $5.50 if you are taking the Sierra Club bus, which most of you are.

Remember to bring a Valentine for the party.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Bruce B. Grant writes: "Looking forward to summer, I have been wondering if there may be among Sierra Club members any who might be interested in Foldboating on California streams and lakes. Like skiing and rock climbing, this activity leads participants to a more intimate acquaintance with their mountains, and it is a fascinating sport with unlimited opportunities for the photographer.

"I know of a few interested people and some who already have boats. A few trips were made last summer down the Sacramento, Russian and Feather rivers. There are certainly portions of many other streams in California that would be navigable by Foldboat.

"It would be of real benefit to those of us interested in this sport if we could assemble information regarding both people, and places to go, specifically:

1. California streams or portions thereof which have ever been navigated by any type of craft. Any detail regarding difficulties, obstructions, etc., would be helpful.
2. Similar information regarding other western states.
3. Names, addresses and phones of Foldboat owners interested in information on trips.
4. Names, addresses and phones of others interested in the sport who might wish more information."

Bruce continues by offering to collect and organize this data for the benefit of others. Therefore, direct Foldboating and river information and inquiries to: Bruce B. Grant, 6255 Chabot Road, Oakland. Phone AShberry 3-3360.

ALL ABOARD

Let's hop onto our magic carpet and make a round-the-world trip. The Farquhar's have graciously offered to show movies of parts of their spring and summer 1951 world tour. The movies will be about Mount Olympus (Greece) and the Himalayas. What better entertainment could one want? What is more fascinating than the customs, people, and scenery of Greece and Asia? There should be SRO for this program, so bring a friend and come early.



Everett Junior High School, 16th and Church Streets, San Francisco, Tuesday, February 17, 8 p.m.

CONSERVATION AND YOU

A little over a year ago the Executive Committee of the Bay Chapter, realizing that conservation problems on the local scene needed more specialized attention than it was possible for the Club Conservation Committee to devote to them, established the San Francisco Bay Chapter Conservation Committee. Under the chairmanship of Edgar Wayburn, it has been the local "watchdog" in conservation matters. Roughly, its sphere consists of the Bay Area - north to St. Helena, south to Big Basin and Butano, east to Contra Costa and Mt. Diabo...and, of course, San Francisco and Marin County.

In doing an adequate conservation job, timing is so important...we have to know what's brewing if we're to do anything about it before it's a closed issue. Many things come up which affect those of us living in this area particularly - questions in which we as private citizens can often do much to inform our neighbors, under the direction of our Chapter Conservation Committee. This committee concerns itself, not only with current problems, but also area master plans.

Newspaper clippings are helpful in keeping the committee abreast of current conservation events. If it's of interest to you, the chances are that it will be of interest to the committee, too. (Send clippings to the Sierra Club, attention of Dr. Wayburn.) Also, your expressions of personal opinions or any first-hand information are important.

No matter how hard we on the committee try to keep up with things, you'd be amazed at how much we miss - and how much we need your help. So, please be on the alert for developments in real estate subdivisions, housing projects, new roads, dams, changes in park rules, bridges, etc., etc.

Even if it sounds like a cock-eyed rumor, we'll be grateful to hear about it.

--Chapter Conservation Committee

WE RECOMMEND -

"Annapurna", the story of the ascent of the highest mountain yet climbed by man - 26,493 feet. It's masterfully written by Herzog of the French expedition.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Does the Yodeler have any readers? Seeking an answer to this question, the editor made an error in the latest issue. We discovered that there are many, many readers.

Here's what they have to say:

Kenneth Raab writes: "In the last issue's article on snowshoeing, John A. 'Snowshoe' Thompson was hailed as the 'most fabulous snowshoer known to the world'. I feel that a small correction or clarification of his title should be made.

"Thompson called his skis by the only word that he had ever heard them called in his native Norway; he called them snowshoes, for the old word for ski was snowshoe.

'In the Sierra Club Bulletin of February, 1935, there is a good article about Thompson and an accurate description of his 'snowshoes'. 'They were ten feet in length, four inches in width behind the part on which the feet rest, and in front they were four and a quarter inches wide'. They weighed twenty-five pounds.

"On the following page there is a sketch of Thompson schussing a slope using a wooden pole for balance.

"I hate to disappoint the up and coming snowshoers in the Sierra Club, but your champion, Snowshoe Thompson, was a skier. In fact, his were the first skis seen in California."

John Schagen also sent us a note referring to the article in the Bulletin and saying, in part, "Snowshoe Thompson's snowshoes were not of the Indian basket pattern, but of the Norwegian wooden style - in other hateful words: skis!"

The list of people who informed the editor of this mistake verbally would read like a "Who's Who" in the Sierra Club.

Upon receipt of all this, the editor promptly applied for membership in the "Feeble-Minded and Befuddled Society," but was rejected. Therefore, we're stuck with her. When pressed for an explanation, she said, "The information on 'Snowshoe' Thompson was practically a direct quote from the 'Encyclopedia of Sports'. There was nothing in this book that even hinted that Thompson's snowshoes were anything but what they were called. Alas, betrayed by an encyclopedia!"

All is not lost, however, for Fred Firestone writes: "Congratulations on your very informative article, 'The Raquetteers.' A feature article of such an educational nature would certainly be welcomed at regular intervals, or in serial form.

"Perhaps Kyle Corson's Educational Committee could collaborate in such a venture. I am sure that newcomers to the mountains would appreciate the benefits that a series of this order would provide."

We have also been informed that there is a yearly "Snowshoe" Thompson Race on Donner Pass commemorating his heroic service in carrying the mail from Carson City to Placerville.

We assure you that the other facts, speed records, etc.in "The Raquetteers" were correct.

LOOKING INTO THE SOUTHWEST

We did indeed look right into the canyons of Utah and Colorado while sitting comfortably in the Mills Building auditorium at our January meeting. Mona Young's stereoscopic kodachromes made us feel as if we were right there looking through a window into the real landscape. She was wise to take cactus and thistles for her flower pictures; they seemed to stand right out of the screen toward the audience and the temptation to reach out and touch them was almost irresistible. We are sure it was the first time that so life-like a burro has appeared in the Mills auditorium. Mona was born in the mining country of Colorado and knows where to go for her pictures as well as how to take them. We certainly thank her for arranging such a fine program for us.

--C.M.C.

In an impressive and inspiring article in the February 7 Saturday Evening Post on California's redwood groves, "How We Saved the Big Trees", our Honorary Vice-President Horace Albright tells entertainingly of what has been accomplished and states plainly and compellingly that there is still much to be done. It's good reading and brings us up to date on a lot of Sierra Club history, too.

MOONLIGHT AND SUGAR SNOW

"Eventful" is a very applicable word for the first ski tour to John Benson Hut in the 1953 season. Earl Oliver's car had hardly passed Vallejo when it "flipped" its ski rack. Fortunately, there was little traffic at 5 a.m. that Saturday, January 24, so no skis were damaged. A half-hour saw us on the way again. Sunrise, a typical vermilion display, revealed blue sky with scattered clouds. This was the weather menu for the week end.

Spirits were high as we started south from the highway at Donner Pass. A fair breeze was blowing. At the bottom of the first dip in the trail, Dick Spongberg's skis nosed into a mound of firm snow. One of them came out minus its tip. We had an aluminum tip, but such devices are for emergency only and should not be relied on for an out-going tour. Therefore, Dick was forced to drop out. Awfully tough luck, Dick, but there will be many more tours, including some to Benson (see Schedule).

The climb up Mt. Lincoln was through excellent, dry, sugar snow that lightly covered a firm smooth pack.

Bob Frenkel, Nora Straley, and Bill Otterson pioneered a new western route to Benson from this point. It drops 800 feet more in elevation and is longer than the ridge route, but it is out of the wind. The remainder of the party--June Wayne, Betty Klevesahl, Herb Hinze, Earl Oliver and myself--faced the wind on the ridge and were rewarded with magnificent vistas of Mt. Rose gleaming solitarily in the sun, expansive white flat valleys and rows of hills and rugged ridges stretching to the horizons.

In the late afternoon wind hollows, great ice ridges, and steep side hill traverses made travel difficult and the wind velocity increased. After sunset the twilight concluded the day with a deep blood-red band on the western horizon beneath a dark-gray cloud canopy. Overhead, however, a brilliant moon cast clear light on all we had seen during the day. The cozy Benson Hut, made cozier by those who arrived earlier, welcomed the later contingent of the party. Refreshed by much food and sleep, the entire party started out again Sunday morning. No one seriously considered the ridge (and the 100-mile wind) for the return trip. Instead we dropped down from the saddle eastward into the bowl that leads to Coldstream Valley. In five hours we made Donner Monument with a downhill or level track all the way.

The tour, enjoyed by all, was also successful in exploiting two routes as alternatives to the ridge for those who wish less wind, more snow cover, and more downhill at the cost of greater distance and a little more climbing.

--Neil P. Anderson

TAPPAAN TOPICS

Peter Grubb Hut has a new stove!

A crack sled team of eight dogs and a most unenthusiastic Chinook huffed and puffed over the ridges to the hut with a 280-pound stove in four and a half hours. Soft snow plagued the team, and it was hauling the mountain until Rudy Talso waxed the runners on the sled. As far as Boreal Ridge the team pulled the stove, sled, two packs, team owner, Lloyd van Sickle and son, and a tow rope attached to Jim Mulholland and Lodge Manager Rudy Talso. The rest of the trip was made with sled and stove only.

Full House

Skiers have been out in full force for the past two week ends and filled the Lodge to capacity. And the bus had a full load on its last trip up the mountain.

Out for the Season

Lillian Abraham suffered a broken ankle on January 24 week end, and the 31st saw Jim Clifford break a shoulder in an unfortunate fall. A speedy recovery to both of these Lodge regulars.

Ski Early This Year

The weather man is still predicting an early and short ski season.

CTL Meeting

The Lodge Committee is having its meeting on February 10 at the Sierra Club office.

ARE YOU LISTENING?

Jim Grady on his 7:15 a.m. radio program, "This is San Francisco" talked at length about the Sierra Club and its conservation work. We mention it, for no one we know would be out of the sack that early.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SIERRA CLUB
LISTED DECEMBER 31, 1952 - DATE OF ELECTION MARCH 2, 1953

Name	Sponsors
Cathy Ahlstrom	Nancy Lee Windrem Robert B Long, Jr
John S Barnes	Nova A Bartlett Robertine Pace
Frederick C Brenner (19)	Richard D Strong John G Hatfield
Alexander Browne (15)	Edward R Browne E Morris Cox
Kenneth Goodden	Barbara Reinero Betty Crouse
Arthur W Haseltine (12)	Chas deB Haseltine Arthur H Breed Jr
Elizabeth Klevesahl	Florence Melbin Carroll E Melbin
Donald C Morrison	George H Bloom Edward S Robbins
G Thomas Robbins	Rimo Bacigalupi Annetta Carter
Helen D Tiedemann	Jean F Ackerman Marguerite Baumann
Hildegard Volwassen (Mrs)	Pauline Dietz Joseph C Wampler
William H Wadman	Earl Palmer R H Watkins Jr
Mrs William H Wadman	Earl Palmer R H Watkins Jr
Virginia Wetzel	Wanda Goody Kenneth Goody
Helen L Williams	John F Forbes Jane Peery

IN THE WAKE OF THE SMORGASBORD

Sunday, January 25 saw thirty trusting people out to follow Doc Williams through the woods and over the hills via Bolinas Ridge to Camp Taylor. This is a familiar hike to old-timers, but Doc made it even more interesting than usual by re-routing the hike through Cataract Gulch which is really beautiful this time of year. As we emerged from the Gulch and climbed up the road, we were startled by a number of foreign sport cars - Jaguars, MG's, Simca's, etc. headed for a rally on the top of Tamalpais. After we asserted our superiority to this mechanized travel by scrambling off the road, Doc gathered us together and fed us some of his famous smorgasbord. Out from his pack came "sweet" sandwiches made with dates, marshmallows, candied melon, raisins, and various indefinable ingredients, and "regular" sandwiches with more usual goodies, such as cheese and meat.

We had a little rain at the start of the hike - just enough to be refreshing. Then the weather cleared sufficiently so that we enjoyed the view from Bolinas Ridge in both directions.

Altogether we tramped seventeen miles and enjoyed it thoroughly - thanks to the scenery and good company.

There were several new hikers present. Among them were two fellows from England who entertained us with witty accounts of their misadventures since coming to America while we dined at Fisherman's Wharf.

--BT

MT. HAMILTON NO-SNOW TRIP

The bus-load of hikers who left San Francisco on February 1 for Mt Hamilton made the first part of the trip through heavy fog, but after leaving the valley floor we soon came out into an early spring day that was pure delight. At Smith Creek Ranger Station we met the cars, and there were fifty-one hikers who started the climb, which was led by Sam French of the Loma Prieta Chapter.

Though it was too early for spring flowers, except manzanitas and a few shooting stars, neither was there any snow, and there were those who were thankful, for the climb is a steep one.

On one of the breather stops Jean Schelin sang the humorous ballad "The Seasons."

At the top we continued to the Fire Lookout for our lunch stop so that we might enjoy the view of the long Sierra snow crest. Those who knew what they were seeing could pick out Half Dome and the west face of El Capitan, which were partly obscured by the haze.

The view of the Santa Cruz mountains was quite remarkable. The Santa Clara Valley was filled with fog and haze, and the dark peaks rising above it gave an illusion of great height.

Before returning we went to the Lick Observatory where the attendant talked about the thirty-six inch refractor telescope and showed us how the dome revolves - and invited us back on a Friday night from 7 to 9 - for a view through it.

--Ethel Unselt